

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 6, 2006. Claims 1-40 have been rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1-40 remain pending. Claims 2 and 16 has been objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended claim 2 and 16 to correct the informalities and claim 4 to correct a typographical error. Claims 1, 14, 27 33 and 37 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. In view of the amendments and following remarks, Applicants believe that this amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action and functions to render all claims patentable over the art of record.

OBJECTED CLAIMS

Claims 2 and 16 has been objected to because of informalities. Applicant has amended claim 32 to correct the informality. Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-40 as being anticipated by Realgm.com. Independent claims 1, 14, 27 33 and 37 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Specifically, independent claims 1, 14, 27 33 and 37 have been amended to include the limitation that the activity and participants are preexisting. In view of the claim

amendments and following remarks, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges, as per claim 1, Realgm.com teaches a computer-implemented method for facilitating group management functionality, comprising: receiving information associated with a group of members participating in a group activity and with the group activity participated in by said members (page 1, where the group activity is a basketball discussion); and creating a web site structure instantiation including content comprising at least a portion of said information (where the instantiation of a discussion thread comprises said information).

With reference to claims 1, 14, 27 33 and 37, the limitation of a preexisting activity has been added to each of the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. In addition, the RealGM.com reference provides participant population subsequent to website structure instantiation, whereas, the present invention provides information identifying participants prior to website structure instantiation. Support for the claim amendments may be found in the originally filed specification.

In the present invention the activity may be, for example, baseball and the participants may be members of a baseball team participating in the baseball game. The RealGM.com participants, presumably located at <http://www.realgm.com/boards/>, are not members of a

common group or team that existed prior to the formation of the RealGM.com Forum referenced by the Examiner. Furthermore, if the Applicant understands the Examiner's interpretation of the RealGM.com reference correctly, the Examiner alleges the activity in which the RealGM.com participants partake is the participation in the forum itself. The information received in the RealGM.com reference is not from an activity participant, rather, from non-participants, as the participants of the RealGM.com site do not appear to be members, for example, of the Atlanta Braves organization, and are instead users who registered to provide commentary on the site, rather than provide information regarding their own participation in a preexisting activity (Major League Baseball).

As set forth in Paragraph 27 of the present specification "Information management functionality, which is facilitated via the information management module 105, simplifies the administrative burden associated with coordinating operations of a group and its members (e.g., amateur sports teams, extra-curricular groups and their associated group activities)." In addition, Paragraph 49 of the present specification discloses, "the activity participant home page 370 is a home page for a player (i.e., the activity participant) of a youth baseball team." The present invention is provided for group participants, such as members of sports teams, rather than casual observers who participate in RealGM.com site. As Paragraph 29 of the present specification reveals the participants are members of a preexisting group "Using this user interface, the group administrator inputs and assigns group staff roles and responsibilities, inputs a group member listing (e.g., a team roster), inputs a

schedule of activity events (e.g., all of a team's games, practices, other group events), inputs sponsor information, and uploads team documents (e.g., medical forms, waivers, releases, rules, etc)."

It is clear that Realgm.com reference fails to disclose all of the elements claimed by Applicant in claims 1, 14, 27 33 and 37, as amended. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this Section 102(a) rejection and allow Claims 1, 14, 27 33 and 37 and their respective dependent claims, as they depend from allowable claims. Accordingly, Claims 1-40 define patentably distinct inventions that are allowable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

The entire office action of January 9, 2007 has been reviewed carefully and this amendment is believed to be fully responsive thereto.

In view of the above, it is the Applicant's belief that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. As a result, the Examiner is respectfully requested to examine claims 1-40 and issue a Notice of allowance in due course indicating all claims are patentable under the provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at (248) 865-9430.

Respectfully submitted,  
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